

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following amended paragraph.

The invention relates to a massage arm with a massage element for a massage unit that can be mounted in a massage chair or another item of furniture used for sitting or lying, where ~~the massage arm is coupled to at least one shaft, which can be displaced~~ a first and a second shaft are comprised, where the massage arm displays a holding arm, connected in articulated fashion to the first shaft, on the free end of which the massage element is located in articulated fashion, and a projecting arm, connected in articulated fashion to the second shaft, one end of which acts on the holding arm, where the shafts can be moved in the massage unit by means of a drive in order to produce a first vibrating movement in a first frequency range, ~~and is connected to the massage element in articulated fashion~~ and where the massage element displays at least one contact surface acting on the body of the person to be massaged.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15, with the following amended paragraph.

Various embodiments of massage arms of this kind are known. The massage unit customarily consists of a massage carriage, which can be incorporated into the backrest of a massage chair, or into another item of furniture to be equipped with a massage unit, and can be

moved back and forth along a frame by means of a drive. As a rule, the massage carriage displays two motor-driven shafts, via which oscillation of two massage arms, each provided with a massage element, is generated. To this end, each massage arm ~~expediently~~ consists of a holding arm, connected in articulated fashion to the one shaft, on the free end of which the massage element is located, and a projecting arm, connected in articulated fashion to the second shaft, one end of which acts on the holding arm. To generate the oscillation, the ends of both shafts ~~can~~ display eccentric areas, on which the holding arm and the projecting arm are mounted. In this context, the eccentric areas at the ends of the shaft connected to the holding arm can be angled relative to this shaft, such that, when this shaft rotates, the holding arms bearing the massage elements perform a pivoting movement about an essentially horizontal axis extending through the intersection of the shaft in question and the angled axis of the eccentric areas. The massaging action generated by this movement of the massage elements is referred to as "kneading".

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11.

The “kneading” and “tapping” movements are superimposed on each other to produce a first vibrating movement of the holding arm in a first frequency range, said vibrating movement being transmitted to the massage element.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11, with the following amended paragraph.

Massage arms ~~of this kind~~ each with one massage element of the kind mentioned in the opening paragraph are known, for example, from WO 97/37627, EP-A-1 013 254 and EP-A-0 998 894 ~~for example~~. The techniques of kneading and tapping described above are intended to more or less simulate manual massaging by a masseur.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16.

DE 34 29 392 A1 describes a muscle-relaxing device, where the backrest displays a pair of rollers, which can be moved up and down along the backrest, and a vibration unit that has an eccentric weight on its shaft, where the eccentric weight is power-driven, such that the backrest is given an undulating movement, where the rollers and the vibration unit are supported or mounted on a supporting part that engages a threaded rod that can be rotated reversibly by means of an electric motor.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, with the following amended paragraph.

According to the invention, the object is solved in that, on a massage arm with a massage element of the kind mentioned ~~above~~ in the opening paragraph, a vibration device is ~~provided~~ located on the massage element or the holding arm for generating a second vibrating movement, ~~which is superimposed on the first vibrating movement, transmitted to the massage arm by the moving shaft, and displays a higher frequency range than the first vibrating movement in a~~ second frequency range that is higher than the first.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 29.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 35.

Please insert the following two new paragraphs before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8.

The result of the measure according to the invention is that, during the superimposed “kneading” and “tapping” movement, a relaxing, cramp-relieving action is exerted on the muscles of the person to be massaged, such that the massage effect is thereby improved.

Although vibration devices in massage carriages are known from US-A-5 020 518 and US-A-5 462 516, document US-A-5 020 518 only discloses a massage arm that can be set in oscillating motion by a single shaft and via which a "kneading" movement is exerted on the back of a person sitting in a chair, in the backrest of which the massage carriage is located in

longitudinally movable fashion. Furthermore, located on the mounting plate of the massage carriage is a vibration device that transmits a vibrating movement to the entire massage carriage. Since the massage elements are connected to the supporting plate of the massage carriage by several parts connected to each other in articulated fashion, this vibrating movement is hardly transmitted effectively to the massage elements. In contrast, document US-A-5 462 516 discloses not only massage elements designed as rollers on a shaft, but also further massage elements designed as rollers that are located in articulated fashion on the ends of arms mounted in non-rotating fashion on a second shaft, and exert a "kneading" movement on the back of the person to be massaged. Moreover, provided on the mounting plate of the massage carriage is a vibration device which, as according to US-A-5 020 518, exerts vibration on the entire massage carriage.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 15.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19.

In a development of the invention, the second frequency range, generated by the vibration device, is between 15 and 100 Hz. The second frequency range is preferably between 20 and 70 Hz. In a particularly preferred practical example, the second frequency range is between 20 and 40 Hz.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19, with the following amended paragraph.

~~In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the~~ The vibration device, ~~e.g. an electric motor with an unbalance, is rigidly located on the massage element,~~ is expediently located in the vicinity of the contact surface of the massage element ~~acting on the body of the person to be massaged.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 25, with the following amended paragraph.

The massage elements open to consideration ~~here usually display~~ for the invention can display at least one massage body, the surface of which forms the surface in contact with the person to be massaged. ~~The~~ In this context, the vibration device ~~can then be~~ is preferably located next to the massage body, or in the massage body.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 30.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 36.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 9.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21.

Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 25.

In an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the vibration device displays an electric motor, the drive shaft of which is provided with an unbalance.